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REAL FARM RELIEF FOR THE COAST COUNTRY THROUGH THE PLANTING OF THE CHINESE TUNG OIL NUT TREES

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The above picture represents a cluster of Tung Oil Nuts cut from a tree in the nursery row only 29 months from the planting of the seed.

The oil from these nuts is used in paint and varnish, electrical work and many other industries.

There is imported from China from fifteen to twenty million dollars worth of this oil per year and there would be much more of this oil used if it were available.

The growth of this tree in the coast country is past the experimental stage. Experiments by the experimental station at Gainesville, Florida, has proved beyond any question of a doubt that this tree grows better than in its native country and produces under modern methods of extracting the oil a far better grade of oil. This having been certified by the laboratories of paint and varnish companies.

The trees are very rapid growers and begin to produce crops the third year after planting in the orchard. They have no insect pests or fungus diseases and no animal will eat the nuts.

The harvesting of the crop is an easy matter as the nuts fall to the ground as they mature and are picked up at the owner's convenience any time over a period of two or three months.

The Paint Industry of this country is dependent on importation of oils to supply their needs. One half of the linseed oil used in paints is imported with the addition of all the Tung Oil that can be secured.

The possibilities of this industry are such that companies are being formed to develop thousands of acres under one management and by men who know the needs of the paint and varnish men, and the value of this product. The possible net profits range from \$50.00 per acre up to \$200.00 and over as trees increase in age and size.

Extract from a letter from W. T. Watson, of Jacksonville, Florida, is as follows:

"A recent survey made of Florida groves on a very conservative basis by a prominent Ph.D. recites the following facts. Allowing for a 15% margin of safety the estimated net returns are as follows:

"Fifth year, \$99.35 per acre; sixth year, \$164.94; seventh year, \$234.22 per acre. This after deduction of fertilizer and care, mill operation, fixed charges, including interest on investment, etc.

"These figures have been submitted to and approved by some of the best informed men now interested in the industry."

To enable any planter or community to profit from this industry, it will necessitate a planting of such size as will justify the erection of an extracting plant at a central point. This will require a minimum of 1,000 acres. If we co-operate and plant 1,000 acres the first year the planting will increase to 5,000 acres as fast as trees are available.

Prominent business men of Citronelle who have investigated the great possibilities of the industry have pledged themselves to secure the erection of a plant for extracting the oil as soon as trees to be planted come into production to justify the same. See their statement below.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Citronelle, Alabama, have read up on the information furnished by the Government and State bulletins regarding the Tung Oil industry and we believe that if there would be sufficient acreage planted that it would be a profitable investment to the grower.

"In the event sufficient acreage is planted, and to encourage such planting, we hereby pledge our efforts toward securing the erection of an extracting plant, when the trees or acreage so planted begin production sufficient to justify the same.

"SAM H. ANDREWS, JR.,
"A. B. JEFFRIES,
"W. F. HOLDER,
"J. F. WALKER."

Tung trees may be planted approximately 100 per acre, but may be planted to suit the convenience of the grower. Some growers recommend planting $30 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ or 116 per acre, planning to cut out every other one when they begin to crowd. On account of the trees coming into bearing at such an early age, it seems from the stand point of early profits this planting would be desirable.

There are several varieties of the Tung tree: Aleurites Forst, Aleurites Montana, and Aleurites Fordi. The latter being the only one to stand the cold and the only one to be planted commercially. The Fordi also has two strains—the single type and the cluster type. The cluster type seems to be more prolific and therefore more desirable. Planters should be sure to secure the right variety and the right type.

In the nursery row at the Citronelle Nursery & Orchard Company, there are 370 bearing trees of the Fordi variety and of the cluster type. These trees are two years old, putting on fruit on the second year's growth from seed. Clusters from 8 to 14 nuts are common and one cluster of 24 was found. As high as 250 pods have been counted on one tree in this nursery row.

The Citronelle Nursery & Orchard Company will offer for sale and delivery after December 1st, 1930, 100,000 Tung trees grown from the cluster variety seed, at prices that will enable every man who has an acre of land to plant, to purchase trees.

For orders booked for delivery as per above and previous to further notice, we will quote the following prices on trees of one season's growth running from two feet and up, nursery row run, dug, packed and ready for delivery at the Nursery.

10 to 99, 15c. each; 100 to 499, 12c. each; 500 to 999, 10c. each; and 1,000 and over, 8c. each.

The importance of establishing this industry is such that your order should be placed at once, and every planter should urge his neighbor to plant, thus insuring at an early date an industry which will put the South land on its feet as nothing else in agriculture or horticulture has done. Write us, or better still, come and see us, ask for further information, place your order at once and increase it before planting season.

CITRONELLE NURSERY & ORCHARD COMPANY,

Citronelle, Alabama.

